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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Protection of the DCI

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Pursuant to your request to Mr. [ ] Chief, Security Staff, O/DCI, there is attached a report from the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security dated August 29, 1951, subject: Defense Against Assassination Attempts on the Lives of Certain Government Officials, sets forth recommendations by ICIS for protection of certain key officials in Government.

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3. In regard to Recommendation No. 1 of the report,

"Alerting certain members of the Government to the ever present threat to them, of their official responsibility for taking reasonable safeguards, and of those measures which would increase the odds against a would-be assassin",

General Walter Bedell Smith was briefed by J. Patrick Coyne, NSC Representative for Internal Security, on October 8, 1951. In regard to Recommendation No. 3,

"Planning by experts for the institution of a bodyguard-type of protective system over those officials essential to the making of broad national decisions and actions when, and if, advance indication is given of the probability of impending attack upon them",

the Security Staff of the DCI was organized to carry out this responsibility.

4. The protective system for the DCI is set up not only to protect the DCI but to assure the protection of classified information he needs while he is away from the Headquarters Building. The protective system is revised to meet the day-to-day situation and as desired by the DCI. The Office of Security is in contact on a continuing basis with ICIS, the Secret Service, the FBI, and State and local law enforcement officials to obtain the latest information and assessments on the subject of protection of key individuals in Government.

5. Events in the last eight to ten years have clearly indicated to the undersigned that, except for the President of the United States, the Director of Central Intelligence is more vulnerable to possible attempts on his life or other embarrassment than members of the Cabinet. This is due to the fact that he is inevitably a target for hostile foreign intelligence agencies and as has been found, frequently is most apt to be the subject of aggressive action by cranks. This Office in the past has had to put several persons in St. Elizabeth's who were indeed threatening the safety of the Director. I urge that Mr. [ ] be authorized to maintain adequate minimum coverage to an extent which will not embarrass you but which will afford protection. The attached plan prepared by Mr. [ ] in accordance with your conversations with him should, I believe, be enlarged enough to provide coverage of your residence up to the hour of midnight at least and, of course, later if future events warrant that action. I will be glad to brief you further on this matter at any time.

SIGNED

Sheffield Edwards  
Director of Security

Attachments as Stated

cc: DDCI

DD/S